

# ..... Previewing Guide for Sensory and ..... Content Sensitive Patrons

## ***Once Upon a Mattress***

May 21 – June 21, 2026

Broadway Rose's mission is to create unparalleled musical theatre experiences that invigorate audiences and enrich our communities. In addition to putting the best work possible on our stage, to us that also means making it possible for individuals to experience it as fully and comfortably as possible. Below are some advisories for sensory and content sensitive patrons that may contain spoilers for the show.



### **Use of Dry Ice**

There are multiple instances in which dry ice is used to portray smoke coming off of potions and incense.



### **Thematic Elements**

*Audience Interaction:* Throughout the show, the Minstrel addresses the audience directly as the narrator.

*Characters in Disguise:* In Act 2 Lady Larken disguises herself as a boy to run away from the Queen and from Sir Harry.



### **Comedic Combat**

In the middle of Act 1 during the "Spanish Panic No.2," Queen Aggravain has her foot stomped on, a Lady falls during the fan kick, and a Knight gets slapped on the nose. During "Song Of Love," Princess Winnifred pretends to knock out a Knight by putting him in choke hold and elbow slams him until he is passed out on the ground. Towards the end of Act 2, Prince Dauntless smacks Sir Studley in the back of the head with a bird, Sir Harry faints, then Lady Larken slaps him awake. *There is no harm to actors portraying these scenes.*



### **Fantastical Elements**

*Once Upon a Mattress* is a fairytale. Throughout the show, because of the curse put on him, King Sextimus can only communicate through charades. In Act 2, Queen Aggravain uses incantations the Wizard gives her on an enchanted mirror and a potion to help Princess Winnifred fall asleep.



### **References to Drug and Alcohol Use**

Before the Lords and Ladies dance the "Spanish Panic No.2," Sir Studley talks about having a party afterwards on the West Parapet and asks Sir Harry to not forget to bring the wine. In "Song Of Love," Dauntless says Princess Winnifred drinks "just like a Lord" as a compliment, while the Princess and Sir Studley chug alcohol from flasks. In Act 2, Queen Aggravain uses sleep aids like incense of poppy and mandragora and a sleep potion that consists of opium and milk to ensure that Winnifred falls fast asleep. *No actual drugs or alcohol are consumed on stage.*



### **Mature Themes**

*Instances of Sexual Innuendo:* During the song "Opening For A Princess," the Lord and Ladies sing about not "getting any younger." During the song "Man To Man Talk," Dauntless and the King communicate about what happens after you get married. The King pantomimes that it isn't the stork that brings the child, but never explicitly explains conception to Dauntless. After the song "Yesterday I Loved You," Lady Larken and Sir Harry kiss.

*Mentions of Pregnancy:* Before the song "In A Little While," Lady Larken tells Sir Harry that she is now pregnant and they need to ensure that Prince Dauntless gets married so they can get married right away. Throughout the show, there are multiple discussions about Lady Larken being pregnant.

*References to a Dead Body:* In the beginning of Act 2, King Sextimus hides Lady Larken and the Minstrel from the Queen by telling her there is a dead body in between the stacks of mattresses. The King pantomimes someone being hanged and dying.